



# **Earned Value Management** from a Behavioral Perspective

# **ARMY**

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188
Public reporting burder for this collection of information is estibated to and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Rep law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with	this burden estimate or any other aspect of this col- orts (0704-0188), 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, 5	lection of information, includi Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 222	ing suggestions for reducin 202-4302. Respondents sho	g this burder to Department of Defense, Washington
1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY) 24-05-2000	2. REPORT TYPE Briefing		3. DATES COVERED (FROM - TO) xx-xx-2000 to xx-xx-2000	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE		5	5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
Earned Value Management from a Behavioral Perspective			5b. GRANT NUMBER	
Unclassified		5	c. PROGRAM I	ELEMENT NUMBER
6. AUTHOR(S)			5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
Dubin, Henry C.;			5e. TASK NUMBER	
		5	f. WORK UNIT	NUMBER
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS US Army xxxxx			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
XXXXX, XXXXXXX	CV NAME AND ADDRESS		o aboliaop a	ACTIVITION OF A CINCOLAR ACTIVITIES
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME AND ADDRESS OUSD(AT&L)			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
Acquisition Resources & Analysis/Acquisition Management			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
Washington, DCxxxxx			NUMBER(3)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY ST	ATEMENT	<u> </u>		
APUBLIC RELEASE				
,				
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
14. ABSTRACT				
See report. 15. SUBJECT TERMS				
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:	17. LIMITATION	18. 11	9 NAME OF R	RESPONSIBLE PERSON
	OF ABSTRACT			osd.mil/pm/paperpres/paperpres.h
	Public Release	OF PAGES (b	olank)	
			enster@dtic.m	il
a. REPORT b. ABSTRACT c. THI			19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER International Area Code Area Code Telephone Number	
Unclassified Unclassified Unclas	ssified			
			703767-9007	
			SN 27-9007	
		142	21 0001	Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98)
				Prescribed by ANSI Std Z39.18



## **Outline**

- Earned Value from a behavioral perspective
  - Risk Management Challenge
  - Motivation & Constraints
  - Improving Earned Value



## **EVM** in a TQM Context

- Hank's view of the problem with EVM
  - Plan Establish the Performance Measurement Baseline
    - Do Perform the work
      - Check Measure performance (CPI / SPI)
        - Act React to performance
- Planning
  - Identification of risk
  - Assessing risk
  - Insertion of risk mitigation
  - Resourcing
  - Scheduling

- Reacting to performance
  - Resources largely committed
  - Schedules are tight
  - Problems often not understood
  - Punitive impact of response
    - Budget cuts
    - Rebaseline

Planning & Reacting to performance are hard



# Risk Management Challenge

- Process encourages risk taking but punishes failure
  - no mechanism to account for risk without punishment
- The combination of increased risk and pressure to minimize resources is a significant problem
- Resource adequacy confounded by:
  - New ways of doing business
  - Understated technical risk
  - Market forces
  - Requirements & funding instability
  - Task misunderstanding
- Resource adequacy is a judgement call

- Tools/skills to facilitate planning
  - DSMC training has improved ... but
  - Lack of discipline in risk mitigation/ identification / management
  - Criteria for "good" plan are unclear
- Walls are created before PMB is established
  - Cost / schedule / performance established months before PMB
  - Development of realistic PMB exposes inadequacy too late



## **Motivators**

#### Government

#### Program definition priorities

- **#1 Performance**
- #2 Cost (funding profile)
- #3 Schedule (dependent variable)

#### Program execution priorities

- #1 Maintain schedule
- #2 Fight for dollars
- #3 Performance (dependent variable)

#### Industry

#### Interests

- Reputation (past performance)
- Customer satisfaction
- Profit
- Future market
- Technical capability
- Resource utilization



## **Behavior Outcome**

Government

#### Readiness dilemma

- Driven to keep program alive
- Wanting to believe contractor can "pull it off"

Industry

#### **Buy-in dilemma**

- Hoping to solve the problem before failure declared
- Likelihood of "bail-out"

#### **Outcome**

No one can let go until it's too late!



# **Keys to Improved Value**

- Increase the PMB's ability to absorb change
  - Resource bounds determined before risks are understood
  - Risk assessment is a skill not easily taught; not often supported by tools
- Potential improvements
  - Develop PMB prior to contract definitization or as input to source selection
  - Adopt modular contracting approach to enable planned break points to assess risk
  - Increased training and guidelines in IBR goals & conduct
  - Provide better risk and scheduling mitigation tools